



WHOSE SIDE...
...ARE YOU ON?

THE MARVEL UNIVERSE IS CHANGING. AFTER THE RASH ACTIONS OF FOUR YOUNG HEROES CAUSE THE DESTRUCTION OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, A SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT IS PASSED, REQUIRING ALL THOSE POSSESSING PARANORMAL ABILITIES TO REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT. REACTION AMONG THE SUPER HEROES IS SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE, WITH AN AWOL CAPTAIN AMERICA ON ONE SIDE AND A PRO-REGISTRATION IRON MAN ON THE OTHER. NOW, TWO ARMIES OF SUPER HEROES COME FACE-TO-FACE FOR A FINAL BATTLE THAT WILL DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF SUPERHUMANS IN THE UNITED STATES.

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CIVIL WAR

A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT IN SEVEN PARTS

MARVEL

7

CIVIL WAR

A Superhuman Registration Act has been passed which requires all individuals possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government. Those who do not register are considered criminals. Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society and a reasonable request. But Captain America has gathered an underground resistance movement against the new law.

As conflicts rage and tensions rise, heroes on both sides change their allegiances, switching between the pro- and anti-registration camps. Finally, the resistance mounts an attack on the pro-registration faction's holding facility in the Negative Zone. But Iron Man and his forces are lying in ambush.

The battle is joined...



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THE NEGATIVE ZONE:

**AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!**







ARE WE TOO LATE?

NO SUCH THING, DAGGER. RYKER'S WAS THE OFFICIAL DOORWAY FROM THE NEGATIVE ZONE, BUT THERE'S STILL ONE MORE IF I CAN REMEMBER THAT SIXTY-NINE-DIGIT CODE...



I'M ALL TICKED OFF AND I BROUGHT MY CAN-OPENER, SHELL-HEAD!

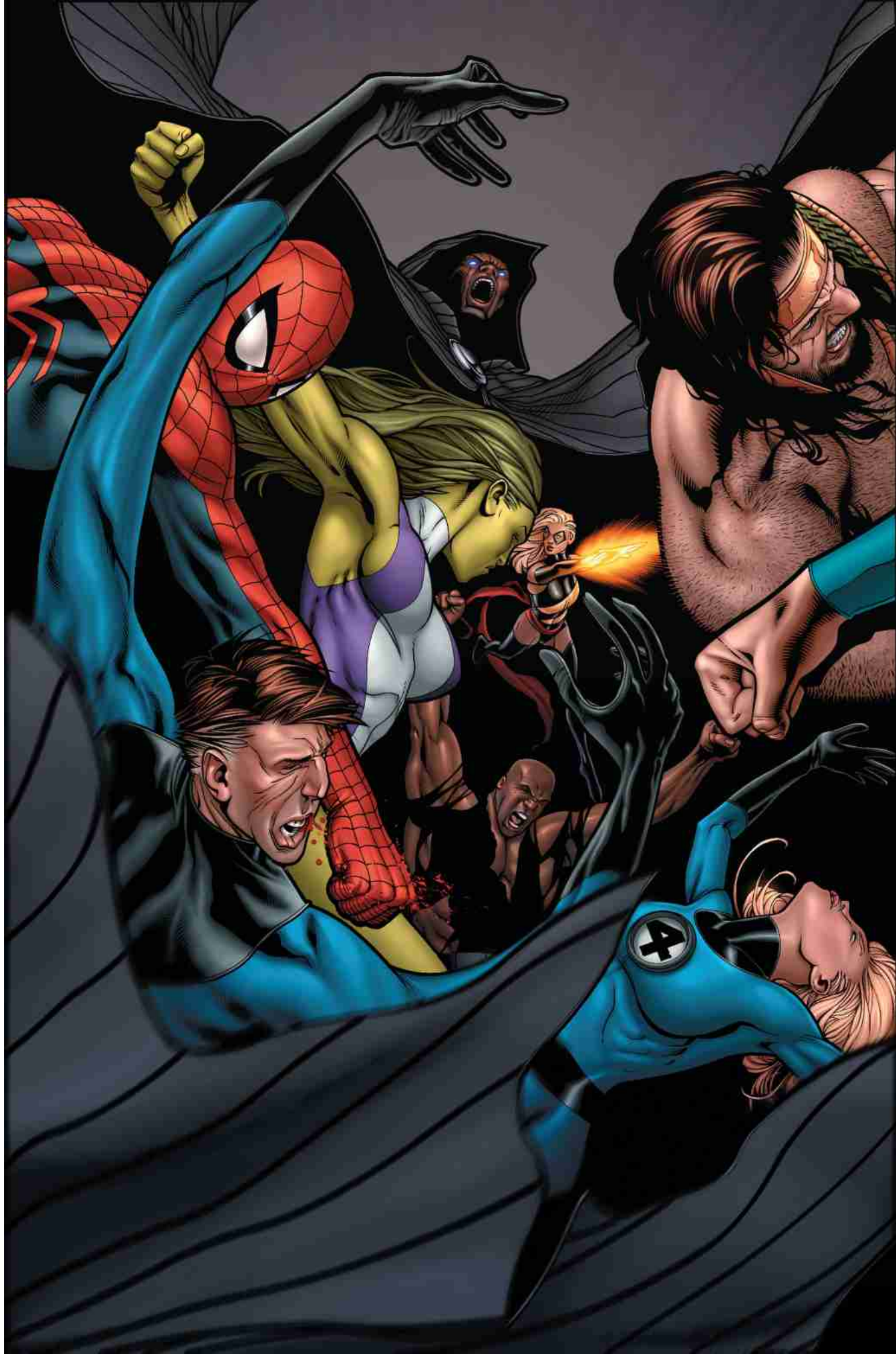
SPIDER-MAN!



WHOOF!

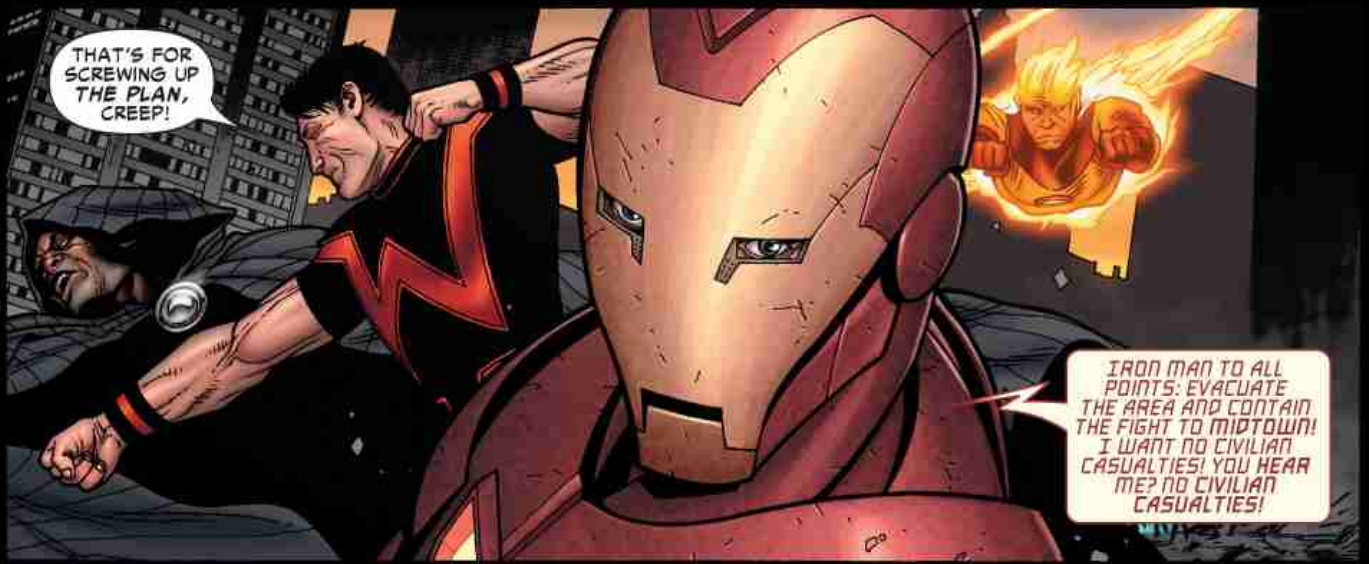
JUST SO LONG AS YOU REMEMBERED THE BANDAGES!





OUTSIDE THE BAXTER BUILDING,
NEW YORK:





















**THOU
ART NO
THOR!**















MY DEAR, SWEET SUSAN:

FORGIVE MY ERRATIC HANDWRITING. YOU KNOW HOW DIFFICULT I FIND SLOWING MY THOUGHTS TO A SPEED WHERE THE HUMAN HAND CAN TRANSLATE MY SENTIMENTS INTO LINEAR SENTENCES.

IT HAS BEEN TWO WEEKS NOW SINCE THAT TERRIBLE BATTLE AND I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT YOU ACCEPTED THE GENERAL HERO AMNESTY GIVEN IN THE WAKE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SURRENDER.



I SAW YOU DURING THE CLEANUP, BUT FELT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS OUR FUTURE WHILE OUR ADRENAL GLANDS MIGHT STILL IMPAIR OUR JUDGMENT IN ROMANTIC MATTERS.

YOU LOOKED SO BEAUTIFUL, SO VIBRANT AND CLEAR-EYED. I CRIED FOR A FULL NINETY-THREE MINUTES WHEN I RETURNED HOME THAT NIGHT.



BY NOW, YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE LAUNCH OF THE INITIATIVE...

...AT LEAST ONE SUPER-TEAM IN EVERY U.S. STATE.



I'M SURE YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE PRESSURE WE WERE UNDER...

...CREATING NEW HEROES, REVAMPING OLD ONES...

...DECENTRALIZING THIS COMMUNITY FROM A SINGLE COAST AND BUILDING A SUPER-POWER FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.



EVEN OUR CONTROVERSIAL PRISON IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE WAS MET WITH RAPTUROUS APPLAUSE WHEN WE FINALLY WENT PUBLIC.

HOW FRIGHTENING THE WORLD MUST HAVE SEEMED BEFORE THIS: VIGILANTES, AMATEURS, SLIPPER-VILLAINS BROODING IN CELLS THAT NEVER SEEMED TO HOLD THEM.

THE ONLY SURPRISE IS HOW WE WERE TOLERATED FOR AS LONG AS WE WERE.



OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE A LIE TO SUGGEST THAT EVERYONE IS HAPPY WITH OUR NEW ARRANGEMENT.

SOME HAVE MOVED TO CANADA IN THE HOPE OF A MORE OLD-SCHOOL CAREER...



...WHILE A SMALL BAND OF CAP'S FOLLOWERS REMAIN RADICALIZED IN THE UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT.

DIG THE OUTFIT, MAN.



THANKS.



NOT TO MENTION CAPTAIN AMERICA HIMSELF...



BUT ON THE WHOLE OUR EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS SUCCESS. WHAT ONCE SEEMED LIKE OUR DARKEST HOUR HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO OUR GREATEST OPPORTUNITY.

HANK PYM
MAN OF THE YEAR
ON HIS GLOBAL
REVOLUTION.

WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT, OUR REMIT HAS MOVED BEYOND SIMPLY LAW AND ORDER AND WE'RE NOW TACKLING EVERYTHING FROM THE ENVIRONMENT TO GLOBAL POVERTY...



...TONY IN PARTICULAR.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THE NEW JOB THE PRESIDENT HAS HANDED HIM?



BUT THE OPINION POLLS AND UTOPIAN IDEALS MEAN NOTHING UNLESS YOU'RE HERE BESIDE ME, MY DARLING.

I PROMISE: NO MORE TRAPS. NO MORE CLONES. NONE OF THOSE PAINFUL THINGS WE HAD TO DO ON THAT PATH TO RESPECTABILITY.



NO MATTER WHAT WE ACHIEVE IN THIS NEW AMERICA WE'RE TRYING TO CREATE...IT CAN NEVER BE HEAVEN UNLESS YOU'RE HERE TOO.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE COME BACK TO THE FAMILY WHO NEEDS YOU MORE THAN OXYGEN.





THE S.H.I.E.L.D.
HELICARRIER,
FIVE MILES OVER
NEW YORK CITY:





WE WON THE WAR AND NOW WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE WIN THE PEACE. I WANT PEOPLE TO GET ENTHUSED ABOUT THIS NEW WAY OF WORKING WE'RE HOPING TO INITIATE.

DID YOU HEAR THE STATE OF COLORADO JUST REQUESTED THE THUNDERBOLTS AS THEIR OFFICIAL TEAM?

YEAH, WELL. AS LONG AS YOU DROP ONE OR TWO OF THE NUTCASES, RIGHT?



NEVERTHELESS, IT'S STILL A TREMENDOUS STEP. GIVING OFFENDERS A SECOND CHANCE IS SOMETHING WE TRIED TO DO AS FAR BACK AS THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS.

DO YOU KNOW WHY WE CALLED OUR PRISON "NUMBER FORTY-TWO?"



NOPE.

BECAUSE IT WAS NUMBER FORTY-TWO OF A HUNDRED IDEAS REED, HANK AND I WROTE DOWN THE NIGHT YOUR SON WAS KILLED.

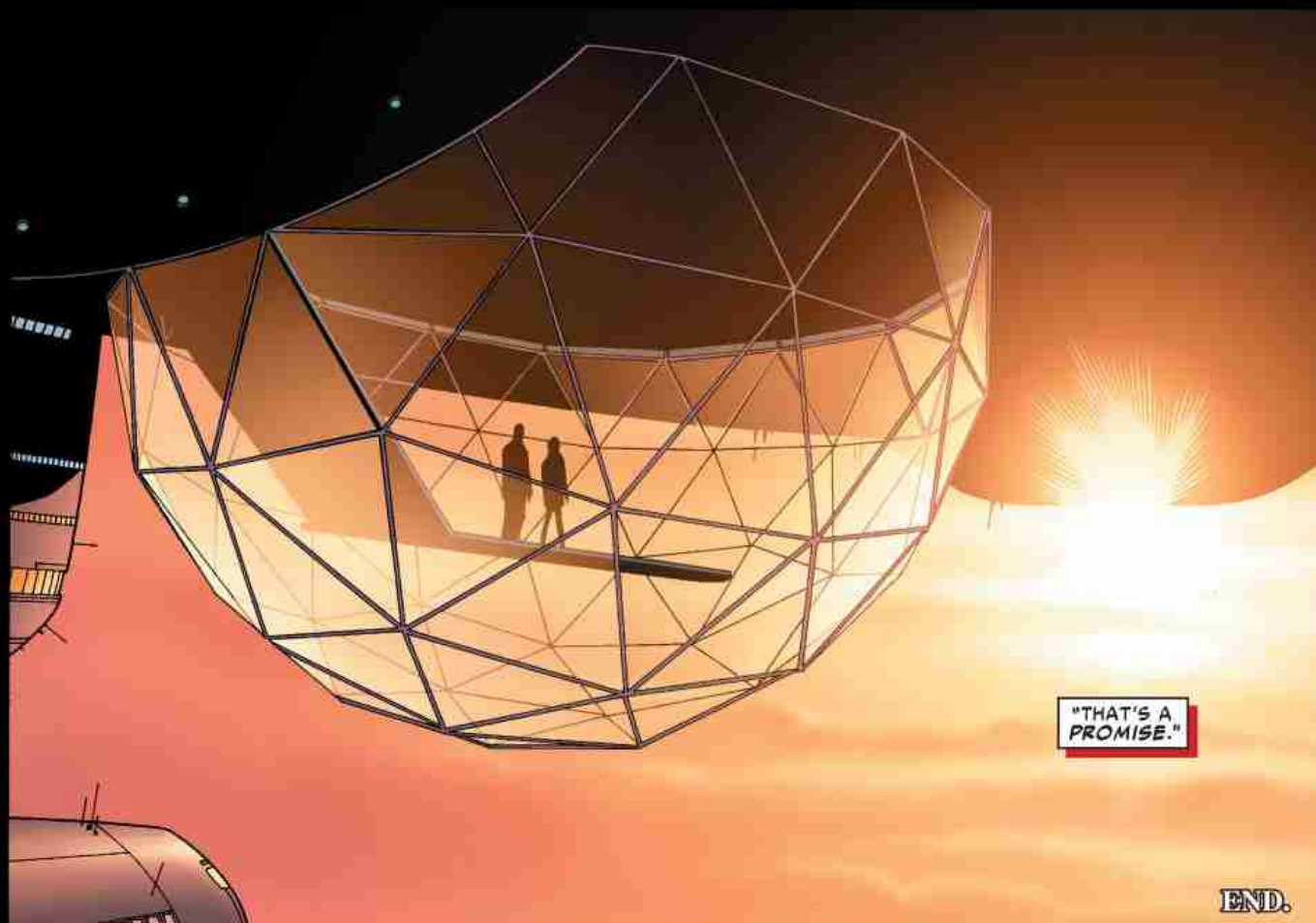
A HUNDRED IDEAS FOR A SAFER WORLD AND WE AREN'T EVEN AT NUMBER FIFTY YET. DOESN'T THAT SOUND EXCITING TO YOU?



CLEANING UP S.H.I.E.L.D. IS NUMBER FORTY-THREE.

BELIEVE ME, MA'AM: THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY JUST FOUND THE GREATEST FRIEND THEY'LL EVER HAVE.

DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D LET ANYONE ELSE GUARD MY FRIENDS' SECRET IDENTITIES?



END.



ZOMBIE